



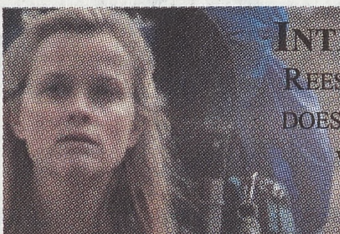
12-10-14




IMMIGRATION
IS THERE REALLY SOMETHING
TO CELEBRATE?
OPINION 2



INTERSTELLAR
ASTRONOMY CLUB SHOW
LINKS QUASARS AND
SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES
VALLEY LIFE 3



INTROSPECTION
REESE WITHERSPOON
DOES OSCAR-WORTHY
WORK IN "WILD"
VALLEY LIFE 3



IMPRISONMENT
"OITNB" LEADS STAFF PICKS
FOR BEST OF 2014.
VALLEY LIFE 3

The building anticipation is building

■ Major construction continues all across the campus with the main goal to reshape Valley College.

BY ZAIDA DIAZ
STAFF WRITER

The bright colors of yellow caution tape and fence panels and the noise of heavy equipment fill the confines of Valley College. It must be winter. Or spring. Or summer. Or fall.

Propositions A, AA, and J have enabled Valley to completely remake itself with major renovations aimed at upgrading it into a state-of-the-art campus. Proposition A enabled the Los Angeles Community College District to issue \$1.245 billion in general obligation bonds for nine community colleges (including Valley) and was passed in 2001. In 2003, voters supported Proposition AA, which added a \$980-million facilities bond for these community colleges.

Lastly, in 2008 the passage of Proposition J added \$3.5 billion in general obligation bonds. Each measure is aimed at revitalizing community colleges by constructing, rehabilitating and equipping district facilities.

There are a number of current and upcoming construction projects that are meant to improve Monarch's experience. Including: an Alumni Walk, a Parking Structure, a Community Services Center, an Athletic Training Facility, a Valley College Gateway, a Student Union, a Performing & Media Arts Center, a Central Plant Expansion and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades.

The parking structure, Alumni Walk and Community Services Center are scheduled to be completely finished by the end of the year. The most obvious construction is the new four-level parking structure located near Ethel Avenue, as it is very close to being done. It is going under a few adjustments,

however students and faculty are already able to access the structure, which provides approximately 1,000 parking spots.

The Alumni Walk, which is already finished, is located between the Aquatics Center and the South Gymnasium.

At the southeastern corner of Ethel Ave. and Hatteras St. the 18,000-square-foot Community Services Center (CSC) is being built. It will serve as a multi-purpose facility, as it will compromise the Valley Community Services, Gymnastics Center and Monarch Summer Camp. In addition to the Administrative zone, which will maintain the Community Services Program office suite, the building will also include instructional and activity zones. Instructional zones include a dividable lecture hall and a computer lab, whereas the activity zones will hold a new gymnastics area, a 30-foot indoor rock wall and two large multi-purpose rooms for activities.

Next to Monarch Stadium will be the Athletic Training Facility, whose construction is also currently underway and is projected to be complete by fall 2015. It will consist of a new 23,000-square-foot stadium field house which will house the football, soccer and track/field teams. It will incorporate two large classrooms, a weight room, equipment rooms, locker rooms and a coach's office. A new baseball and softball field and a community walkway track will also be constructed.

On the opposite side of campus near the main entrance, the construction of the workforce development center titled "Valley College Gateway" is being built. The two-level 41,000-square-foot building is



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/VALLEY STAR
RECONSTRUCTING THE CAMPUS- This construction worker is helping bring a new, modern look to Valley College's campus.

replacing the old Administration Building. Valley's website reports that the new building will hold the college's administrative offices, college services, classrooms and meeting spaces, though the final dates have not been confirmed.

At the heart of the campus, a 41,000-square-foot Student Union is being constructed and is predicted to be complete in 2016. It will bring together student-associated services like a cafeteria, the campus bookstore, the Student Health Center, the Business Office and the Associated Student Union (ASU) offices.

One of the first projects made possible by Measure

J, is the construction of the Performing & Media Arts Center. The building will bring together the Performing Arts Department and the Media Arts Department into one complex. It will include four separate theaters: the Main stage Theater which will hold 450 seats, the

see Updates page 4

Big talk
Speech team cleans up at major tournament
see story on Opinion page 2

additional content:
www.thevalleystar.com

He plays with no distractions

■ MEN'S WATER POLO: If people voice doubts about Alexander Brown, he can't hear them.

BY MONESSA CHAHAYED
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The splashing doesn't bother him. The shouting and the cheering don't shake his focus. Alexander Brown is there to block the ball. And Alexander Brown was born deaf.

The 19-year-old psychology major is one of two goalies on the Valley College men's water polo team that just won its first conference championship.

He picked up the sport in 2009, during his freshman year of high school. Now, in his second semester at Valley, he has one word to describe how he feels about being the only deaf player on the team: "Special."

"I don't know of any other deaf water polo players and I don't think there will be another one in my time," Brown said in American Sign Language (ASL).

Brown's sights are on Division I and beyond.

"I want to become the first deaf water polo player to make ... the national team and Olympic team too," he said.

Coach Jim McMillan is impressed with the 6-foot-5 Brown's progress:

"I'm very happy to have him in my program. I do not change the way I coach just for Alex," says McMillan. "He will be in a position to be the starting goalie next season. He will have to work hard to earn that starting spot."

Knowing this, Brown has begun his offseason training and intends to play on a Masters club.

He would seem to come into the water with a built-in disadvantage, but though he cannot hear what players or coaches say during the game, an ASL interpreter relays important messages from McMillan.

"I wish I could speak with my teammates without relying on my interpreter," admits Brown, who believes his limited speech therapy makes it difficult for players to understand him in the heat of the game. "I wish I could say, 'Foul that guy! Hands up!'" during the games.

The Agoura Hills native is the first deaf person in his

family. His mother and siblings learned ASL, and when Brown was 6, his mother and grandparents decided he would receive a cochlear implant.

In that procedure, a device is placed in the inner ear to help provide the deaf and hard of hearing with a sense of sound. The external part of the device is removed before entering the pool.

"There aren't a lot of ways to describe the feelings of being underwater without my implant. It's very normal to me and I heavily rely on my eyes," he said, although he admits he feels "I'm always just one step behind; I can't hear the ref blow the whistle."

He doesn't think deafness would necessarily be an impairment as a psychologist, however:

"I'm really good at listening to people and helping them," he says, noting he could be of particular value when he has deaf patients.

Brown also enjoys snowboarding and surfing. Every once in a while, he will attend deaf events with his best friend, who is hard of hearing.

"I have been playing a lot of sports including water polo; tennis, surfing, volleyball and baseball mostly. I already know that I can do anything no matter if I can hear or not."

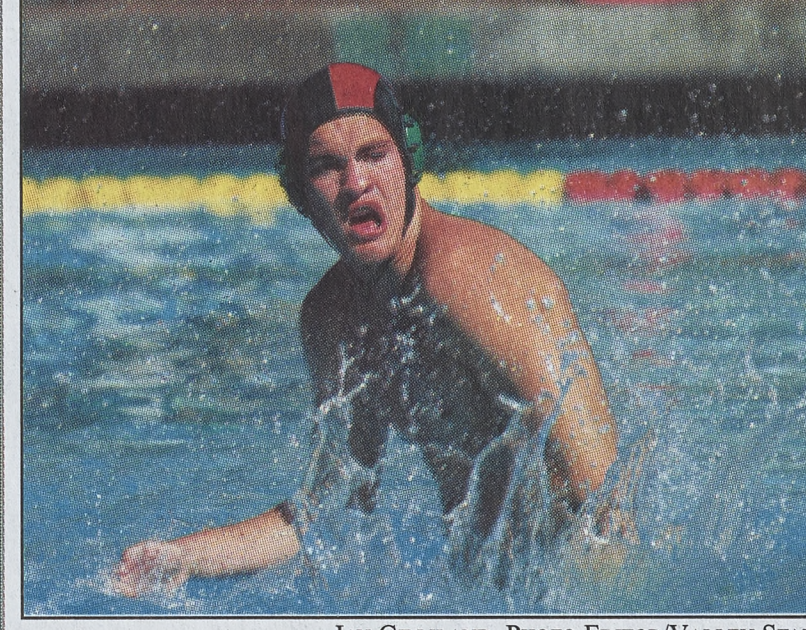
The confident athlete hopes to transfer to Pepperdine University or CSUN; he has considered Gallaudet University (Washington, D.C.), an all-deaf college, but prefers to stay in California to be closer to his family, friends and girlfriend.

He says his girlfriend of four months, Kailey Bennett, "inspires me to love my family more than I already do, because she donates blood every month for her mother. She helped her mother to beat cancer."

Bennett, who is hearing, says, "Alex keeps working hard through any injury. You'd imagine it's [difficult] to play a sport and be deaf but he manages to not only play, but succeed."

Bennett is improving every day at signing. One way the couple improves her fluency is to double date with another pair

see Brown page 4



JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/VALLEY STAR
BREAKING THE MOLD - Alexander Brown is a freshman goalie for Valley's men's water polo team. He is competing at a high level despite being born deaf. The team just won its first championship.

DAY CLASSES						
Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY DEC 15			TUESDAY DEC 16		
Time of Exam	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm	6:30am - 8:30am	9:30am - 11:30am	12:30pm - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 - 7:55 MW	9:40 - 10:50 MTWTh	1:00 - 2:10 MTWTh	6:30 - 7:55 TTh	9:40 - 11:05 TTh	1:00 - 2:25 TTh
	6:45 - 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 - 11:05 MW	1:00 - 2:25 MW		9:40 - 10:55 TThF	1:00 - 2:15 TThF
		9:40 - 10:55 MWF	1:00 - 2:15 MWTh		9:40 - 12:10 TTh	1:00 - 3:30 TTh
		9:40 - 12:10 MW	1:00 - 3:30 MW			
Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY DEC 17			THURSDAY DEC 18		
Time of Exam	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm	8:00am - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 - 9:25 MTWTh	11:20 - 12:30 MTWTh	2:20 - 3:30 MTWTh	8:00 - 9:25 TTh	11:20 - 12:45 TTh	1:45 - 3:10 TTh
	8:00 - 9:25 MW	11:20 - 12:45 MW	2:40 - 4:05 MW	8:00 - 9:15 TThF	11:20 - 12:35 TThF	1:45 - 3:00 TThF
	8:00 - 9:15 MWF	11:20 - 12:35 MWF		8:00 - 10:30 TTh	11:20 - 1:50 TTh	
	8:00 - 10:30 MW	11:20 - 1:50 MW				

THE END IS NEAR - The fall session is coming to an end, and finals are now a few days away. They begin on Monday, Dec. 15 and end on Sunday, Dec. 21. To see the full schedule, go to http://lavc.edu/schedule/FinalExamSchedule_Fall%202014.pdf.

Too soon for a fiesta

■ Congressional constipation on immigration es muy malo for families.

By JULIEN J. METZMEYER
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 4 million illegal immigrants thought they finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel and started to celebrate after they heard President Obama's speech but maybe they should've waited before popping the champagne bottles.

On Nov. 20, President Obama used his executive power to offer work authorization, temporary legal status, social security, and medicare to the undocumented parents of children who are U.S. citizens, or permanent residents, as long as they lived in the United-States for at least five years, pass a background check, and pay taxes. That's 36 percent of the estimated 11 million illegal aliens who are living in America's shadows. During his first bid for the presidency in 2008, Obama promised he would reform immigration within his first year in office. He waited nearly six years to tackle the issue as immigrant communities started to grow impatient.

In the meantime, his administration has been deporting illegal immigrants at a record rate.

"The government is going after criminals, gang bangers, people who are hurting the community," Obama told the New York Times. "Not after students,

not after folks who are here just because they're trying to figure out how to feed their families."

Is that so Mr. President? "For years, the Obama administration's spin has been that they are simply deporting so-called 'criminal aliens,' but the numbers speak for themselves," Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center told the New York Times. "In truth, this administration more than any other has devastated immigrant communities across the country, tearing families away from loved ones, simply because they drove without a license, or re-entered the country desperately trying to be reunited with their family members."

Also a New York Times analysis shows that since Obama took office, two-thirds of the nearly 2 million deportation cases involve people who had committed minor infractions, including traffic violations. Some had no criminal record.

Those cases have quadrupled from 43,000 during the last five years of former President George W. Bush's administration, to 193,000 during the first five years of Obama's, according to the New York Times.

Janet Murguia, the president of the National Council of

La Raza, the country's largest Hispanic civil rights organization is now even calling him the "deporter-in-chief" in the New York Times.

The reason the president is deciding to offer a break to 4 million illegal immigrants is that after his party was crushed during the last mid-term election, he knows when the Grand Old Party (GOP) regain control of the House and Senate next year, he won't be able to maneuver freely. If Democrats want to keep the White House in 2016, they need the Hispanic vote.

Obama knows it is now or never on immigration reform. Unfortunately, it will not be easy for Obama to convince GOP leaders, who already declared they would fight. With a Dec. 11 deadline for next year's budget, there may be another government shutdown. The battle has begun, with 17 states, led by Texas, suing the Obama administration over its recent action.

"The Constitution prescribes immigration policy be fixed by Congress, not by presidential fiat," Texas Governor-Elect Greg Abbott has told the press.

The percentage of illegal immigrants affected by the president's action is comparable to sn action by former President George H. W. Bush in 1990.

The Valley Speech and Debate (Forensics) team battled 44 colleges from around the country this weekend and came away with 15 trophies.

At the Southwest Collegiate Forensic Association Championship Tournament at Mt. San Antonio College, the Monarchs earned first place in four different categories.

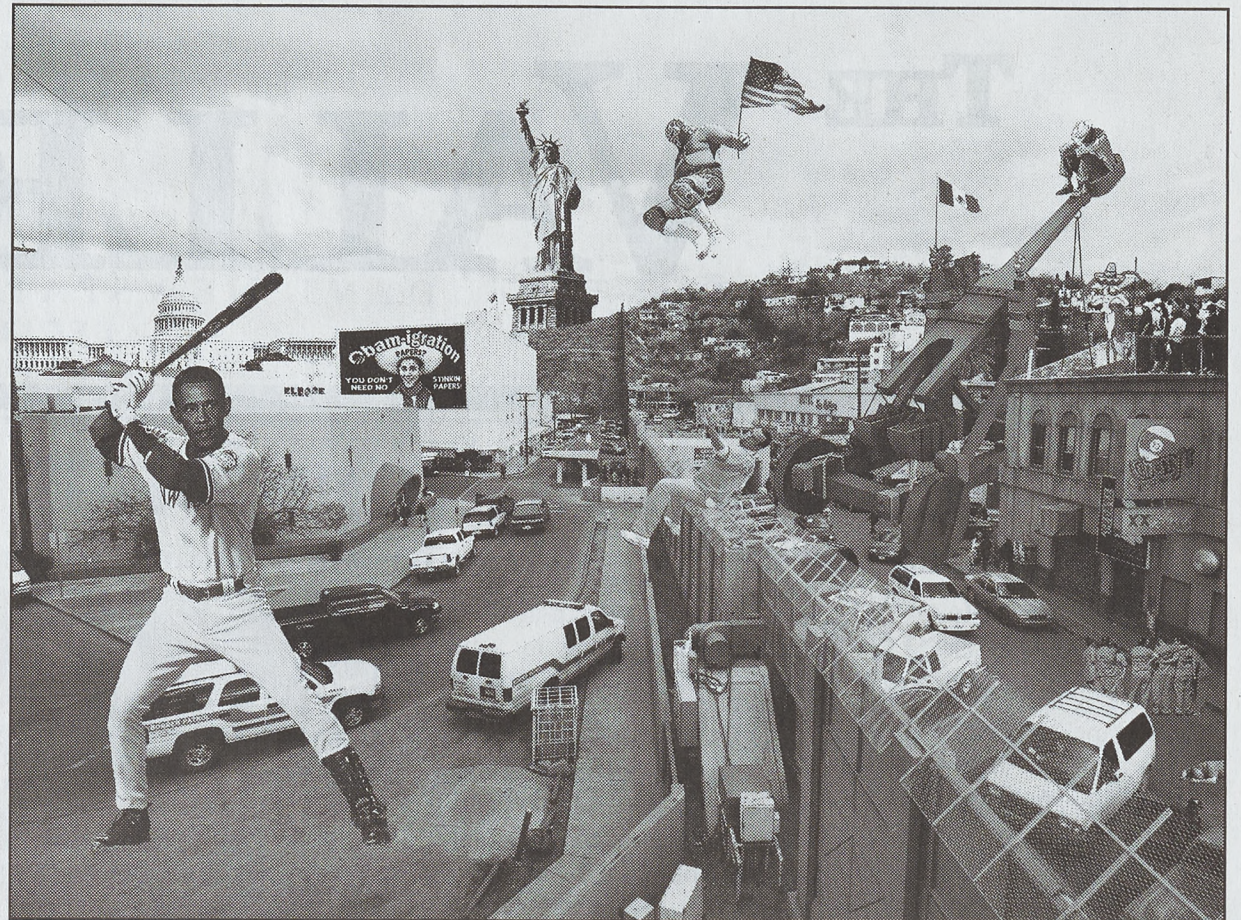


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAY GILLILAND, PHOTO EDITOR/VALLEY STAR

OUT OF HERE - President Barack Obama's administration has deported more people than any other.

Republicans are so mad at the president now that they want to punish him by refusing to invite him to the Capitol to give his State of the Union address according to the Washington Post. What are they going to do next? Unfriend him on Facebook? While Republicans are being total hypocrites, families are being ripped apart.

In April 2010, an 11-year-old girl named Arlette Rocha, was found hanging from the stairway of her home in an apparent suicide, some eight months after her father was deported to Mexico. Unfortunately, this kind of tragic story is far from uncommon.

Republicans hold the fate of millions of families in their hands; people who came to this country so their children would have a chance at a better life. For some, the President's action could be the difference between life and death, so it is time now that Republicans do what's right, not only for immigrant families but for this country by support-

ing their Commander in Chief. America has drifted from what once made this country so exceptional in the eyes of the world ... being a welcoming nation.

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breath free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore, send these, the homeless, tempest tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door." This is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty and it once meant something.

talent is so strong and everyone deserves to go."

The speech team will host a "Forensic Showcase" today, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. on the second floor of the Admissions and Records building. Members will present their speeches as they prepare for the Phi Rho Pi National Forensic Tournament in Cleveland. Donations are welcome.

Talkin' loud and winnin' somethin'

■ 2008 National Champs gunning for another title at next tournament, in Cleveland, Ohio.

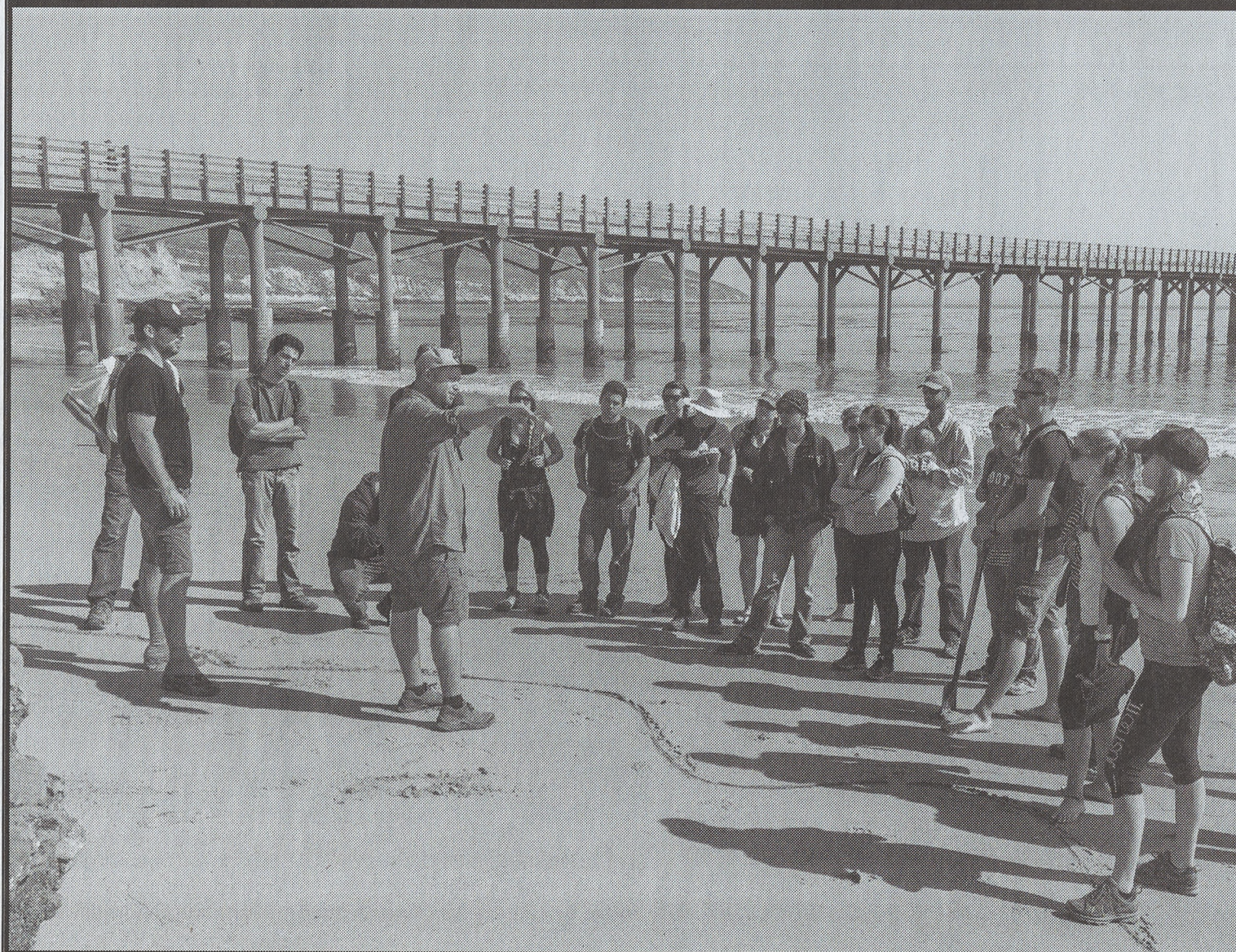
By AMANDA CAVARETTA, STAFF WRITER

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WE TRAIN IN OUR COMMUNITY

& THEN WE TAKE ON THE WORLD



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resumes. These are the lessons on

which to build careers.

RESEARCH: An environmental studies class stops to discuss island environment as part of the California State University Channel Islands (CI) Santa Rosa Island Research Station (SRIIS).

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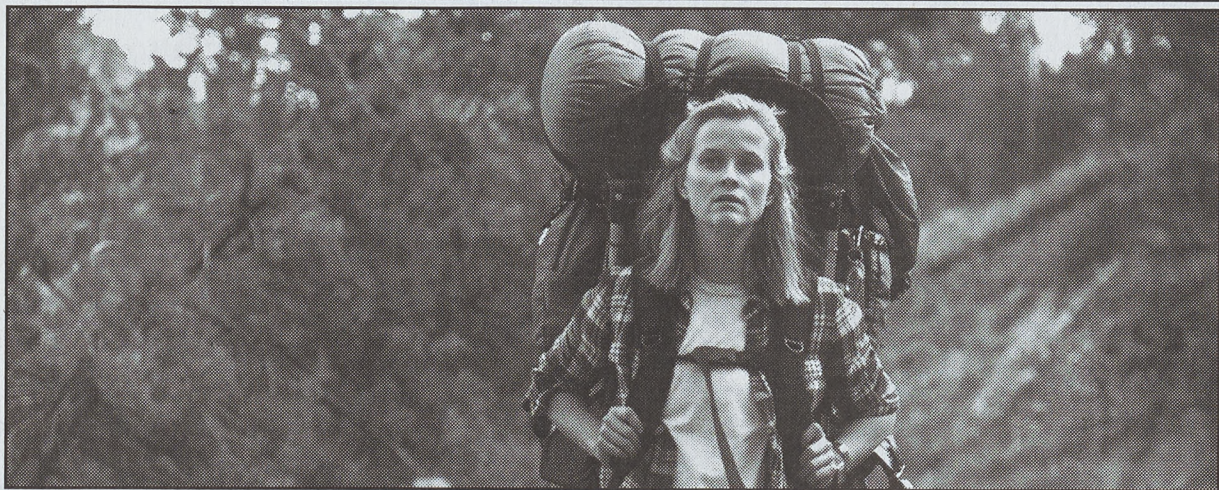
Learn more at go.csuci.edu/lavc



Channel Islands
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Valley Life

3



THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR WALKIN' - Reese Witherspoon's character gets hurt and walks it off. FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Into herself, into the 'Wild'

■ Reese Witherspoon turns in one of her finest performances in this true story.

By Zaida Diaz
Staff Writer

"Wild" invites its viewers to join in on a woman's journey toward redemption: a 1,100-mile hike through the rugged, stunning terrain of the Pacific Crest Trail.

The powerful film digs deep at the soul of a desperate Cheryl Strayed, terrifically portrayed by Reese Witherspoon in arguably her best performance yet. In fact, the intensity of the Oscar buzz circling the actress marks her as the possible frontrunner.

Based on Strayed's best-selling book, "Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail," the film recounts Cheryl's deepest memories and fears throughout her solo trip into the wilderness. There, she faced harsh weather, dehydration and the threat of wild animals.

But what on Earth would draw a solo female hiker to set out on a potentially deadly voyage? Cheryl had to purge. Tormented by her own erratic behavior, she felt the need

to get away from her chaotic lifestyle.

Cheryl is haunted by her failed relationship with her ex-husband Paul (Thomas Sadoski) and the loss of her vibrant and loving mother Bobbi, brilliantly personified by Laura Dern - she hopes the thousand-plus-mile trek can exorcise her demons.

Cheryl's frustration is most evident in the opening scene, when she accidentally drops her boot from a mountain and delivers a gut-wrenching scream -- the manifestation of years of self-destructiveness and pain, fired by her harrowing journey.

Witherspoon fearlessly attacks the demanding role, both emotionally and physically. Under the guidance of director Jean-Marc Vallée ("Dallas Buyers Club"), the actress actually carried the character's 75-pound backpack through tough terrain whilst also stripping away her vanity by wearing no make-up. Adding an organic rendition to the picture.

Vallée beautifully depicts Strayed's journey with hand-

held cinematography, natural light, the use of voice-over as inner voice, rather than exposition and a soundtrack consisting solely of pop music in the recesses of her memory. His approach keeps the audience in tune with the character's point of view, making the experience of hiking tactile and immediate.

These technical aspects are especially successful in Cheryl's flashbacks, memories of her mother sparked by familiar music.

In the midst of nature, Cheryl's mind often drifts back to her mother and how she "strayed" from the woman she was taught to be. It is only through this spiritual journey in the outdoors that she can find her way back.

"Wild" explores the relations that are central to who we are as people in a very unique way. It is real, sincere and, most of all, human.

"Wild" is rated R for sexual content, nudity, drug use, and language.
5 stars (out of 5)

One singular sensation

■ Studious stargazers sucked into Valley College's planetarium event.

By Sara Almalla
Special to the Star

What is the most powerful object in the universe? Hint: It's not an iPhone. The LAVC Astronomy Group show "Point of No Return - Quasars and Supermassive Black Holes" answered that question and many more.

To start, the audience got a tour of the night sky courtesy of Professor David Falk and the Spitz SkyDome projector. This advanced machine created an IMAX-like atmosphere, projecting images all over the inside of the Valley College Planetarium dome.

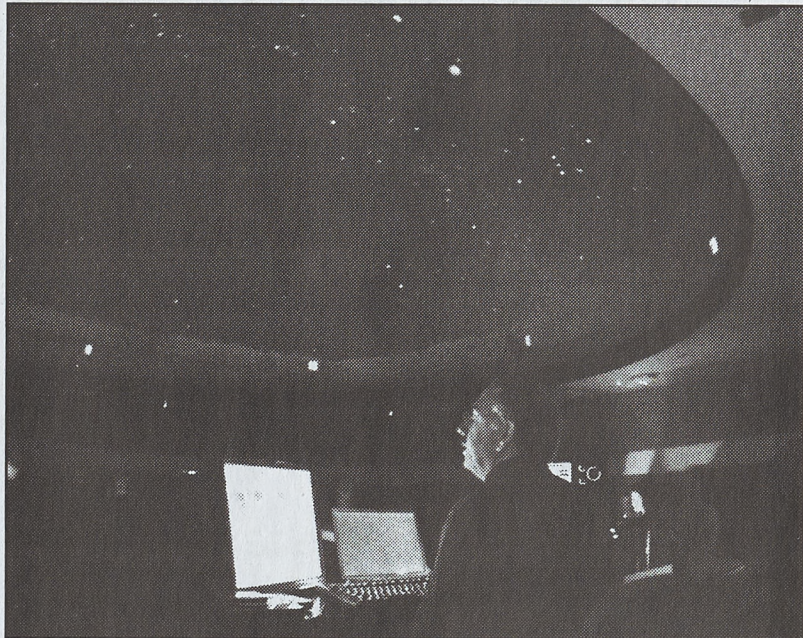
"For people that are curious about what's up in the sky, we'll talk about things that they can see for themselves," said Falk.

Hardly 15 minutes into the show, everyone knew which direction to face and at what time of the day to find Mars, the star cluster Pleiades, and even a handful of constellations. Falk offered witty commentary on the Greek mythology behind the different constellations.

Following the virtual excursion of the night sky, Falk relayed the latest news in the fields of astronomy.

"The most interesting news today," he began, "happened at Cape Canaveral, when we launched a brand new spacecraft called Orion." He went on to explain the mechanics of the spacecraft and played a short clip of it being successfully launched into orbit and circling the Earth twice before landing in the sea.

"What we want to do here is to try to get to a point where we have a vehicle that can take us not only to low orbit



Jay Gilliland, Photo Editor / Valley Star

IT'S FULL OF STARS - Prof. David Falk goes all interstellar and stuff.

and the moon, but even to the asteroids or Mars," said Falk, "and this is the effort to do it."

He then discussed the Rosetta spacecraft in Russia and the impressive advances as well as some less-impressive defeats being suffered.

The main event began with the film, "Point of No Return - Quasars and Supermassive Black Holes."

Made by Mueller Planetarium at the University of Nebraska, it explained the science behind quasars, which are among the most distant and most ancient celestial objects yet detected, and how they are powered by supermassive black holes (making that clearly Muse's most powerful song). Thought to represent a stage in galactic evolution, just one of these tremendously bright and powerful objects is calculated to be 4 trillion times as bright as our sun.

Despite being occasionally difficult to follow, the film was very informative and interesting. Truly, the enig-

ma known as black holes is a mind-blowing topic. The fact that the speed required to escape a black hole is unachievable, that not even light can escape, not even Matthew McConaughey, means there is absolutely no way to know what happens inside of them - making them both the most terrifying and fascinating forces in the universe.

After the film and on days when the weather is clear, the audience may even get to use the telescopes provided by the Astronomy Club to observe the night sky.

Although this will be the last show of the semester, there is generally one presentation a month on topics ranging from the search for extraterrestrial life to different constellations and the myths behind them.

There are no further planetarium events on the horizon this year. For more information on the Astronomy Club, including news of "Star Parties," visit lavcastrogroup.org/ or call (818) 947-2335.

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Valley Star favorites of 2014

■ The Star staff picks the best television show and album of the year.

Risqué series becomes a phenomenon

■ OITNB tells the story of Piper Chapman and her inmates in Litchfield Correctional Facility.

By Jazmine Sanhez
Staff Writer

The hottest summer show premiered on July 11, 2013, the day we met the inmates at Litchfield Correctional Facility.

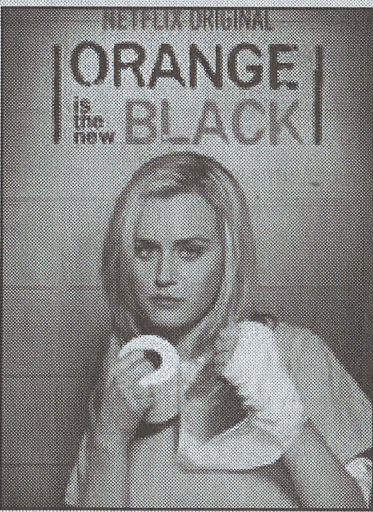
Orange is the New Black (OITNB) Creator Jenji Kohan did it again with delivering us an internet series that swept the country as one of the most seen shows on Netflix.

Filled with its raunchy yet dark comedy, the show tells the story of a young woman named Piper Chapman whose

perfect life takes a sudden turn, as a dark event from her past of smuggling drugs with her ex-girlfriend lands her in jail.

The 15-month journey takes us into the lives of the other inmates. The roller coaster that causes her to lose the life she had is one that shouldn't be missed; every episode leaves viewers at the edge of the seat, wanting more.

With its twisted plots, showing what really goes on behind bars, OITNB excellence was recognized by winning The Critics' Choice Television Awards for best



NETFLIX

ORANGE YOU GLAD - Netflix original pushes boundaries.

comedy series in 2014. However, Monarchs will have to wait till next summer for the third season.

Arctic Monkeys' "AM" their most successful album yet

■ Fifth record finds them busting out of the garage, if you want to know.

By Monessa Chahayed
Valley Life Editor

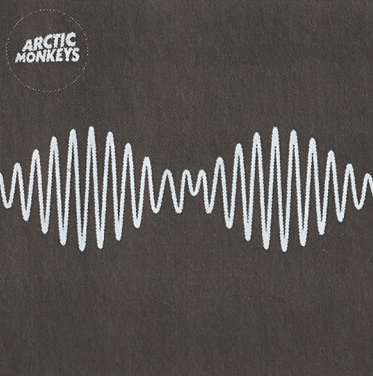
Influenced by Outkast, Aliyah and Black Sabbath, English indie band Arctic Monkeys released their fifth studio album, "AM", in 2013, and it continues to remain on the charts in 2014.

Songs like "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High?", "Do I Wanna Know?" and the latest single released in 2014 "Snap Out Of It" have received major air time since the album release. "AM" has been one of Arctic Monkeys' most successful albums, topping charts in several coun-

tries.

The band broke a record with this album in the United Kingdom after becoming the first independent-label band to debut at number one with their first five albums. The band was also featured on the list of iTunes' bestselling albums in 2014 for "AM" at 10th place.

Frontman Alex Turner said the album "sounds less like four lads playing in a room this time." "AM" sounds a lot more like a true studio album than the previous four. The "AM Tour" began in May of 2013 here in California and just wrapped last month in



UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

MUCHO MONKEY BUSINESS - AM is a barrel of fun.

Brazil.

Lyrics expressed in the indie-rock album resonate with this generation, old and new fans alike.

'Brown'

continued from page 1

that only uses ASL.

"He taught me ASL in the first couple weeks of us dating. It was easy to pick up," Bennett said.

ASL isn't the only way they can communicate as long as Brown isn't in the water — and he can wear his cochlear implant.

"The implant helps me hear music so I can dance with my friends," Brown said. "And I love hearing my friends laugh."

'Updates'

continued from page 1

Screening Theater will hold 225 seats, the Horseshoe theater will hold 150 seats and finally the

radio station and faculty offices. Construction has yet to begin according to

Lab Theater will hold 80 seats. The building will also have classrooms, a newsroom, a

Coby King, an employee for the LACCD Building Program.

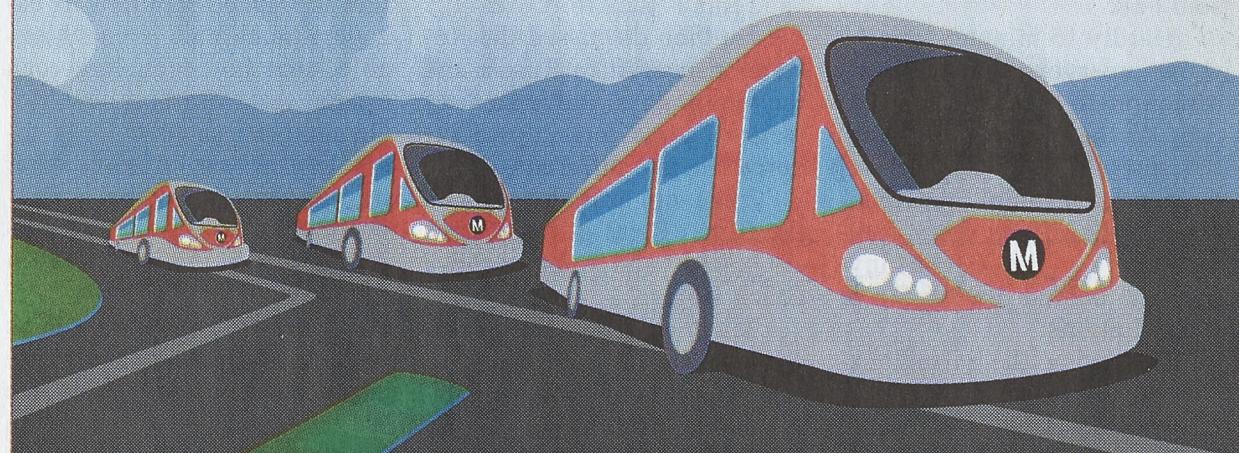
Updates are expected to be started in 2016 for the central plant and ADA.

For more information check on the www.lavc.edu

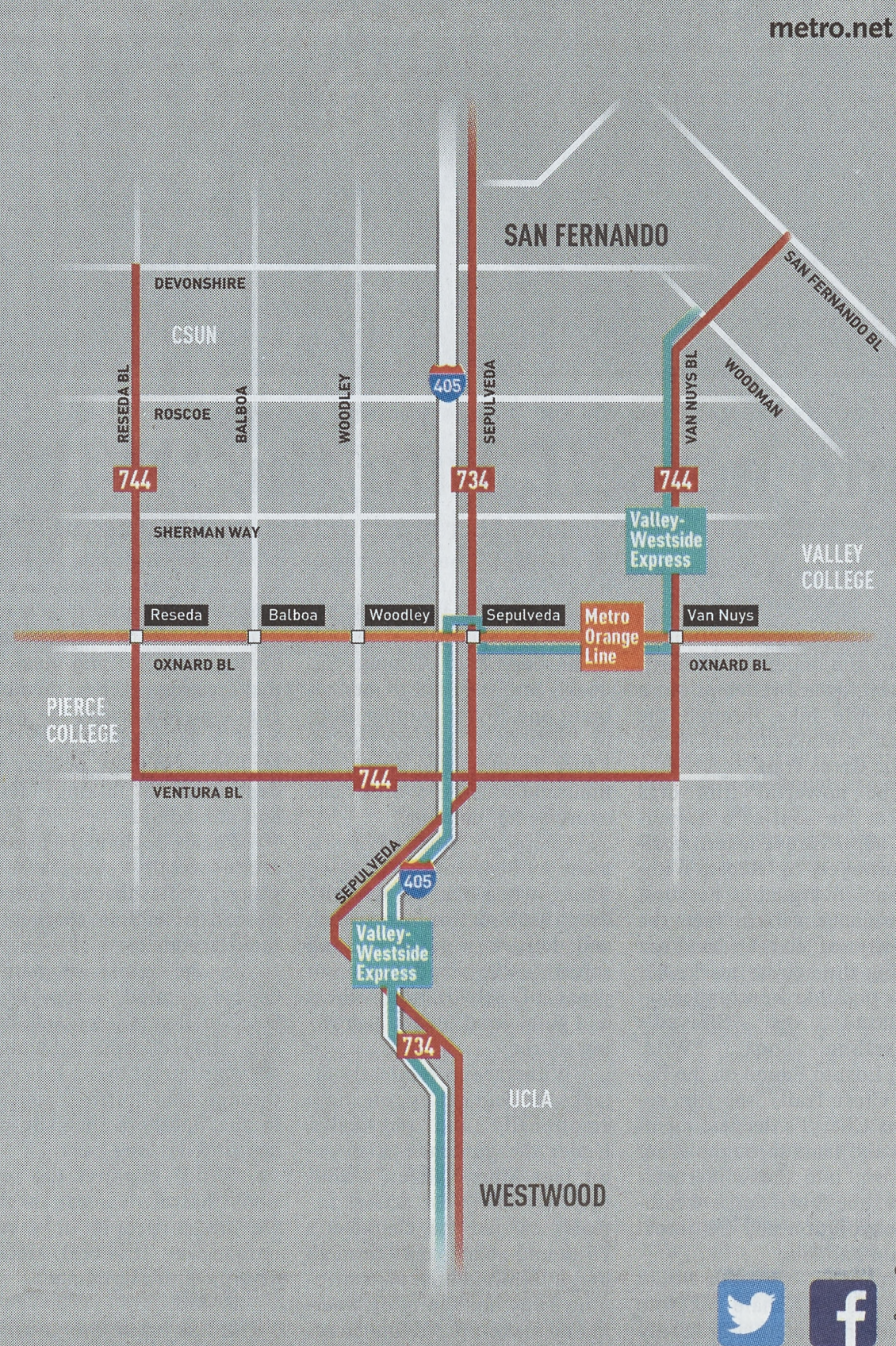
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